

### REMARKS

There are now pending in this application claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8 and 24, of which claim 1 is independent. Claims 3, 5, 7 and 9-23 have been canceled without prejudice or waiver of their subject matter. No claims have been added.

In view of the above amendments and following remarks, favorable consideration and allowance of the above application is respectfully sought.

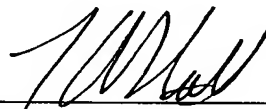
Claim 14 was identified as reciting patentable subject and being allowable if rewritten in independent form. As the Examiner will appreciate, independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 14, as well as intervening claim 12. Thus, claim 1 now corresponds to claim 14 having been rewritten into independent form and is therefore in condition for allowance.

Dependent claims 2, 4, 6, 8 and 24 each depend from claim 1, or incorporate the subject matter thereof, and are therefore in condition for allowance for the reasons noted above with respect to claim 1.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is now condition in allowance. Favorable consideration and early passage to issue of the above application are respectfully sought.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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